

S/N NEW FILING

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|             |   |                 |              |
|-------------|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Applicant:  | ESPINOSE ET AL.   | Examiner:       | UNKNOWN      |
| Serial No.: | NEW FILING  | Group Art Unit: | UNKNOWN      |
| Filed:      | HEREWITH  | Docket No.:     | 8338.140USD2 |
| Title:      | VEHICLE SHIELD DEVICE AND METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING<br>AND SHIPPING A VEHICLE SHIELD DEVICE |                 |              |

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL976595295US

Date of Deposit: April 12 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:



Name: Teresa Anderson

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

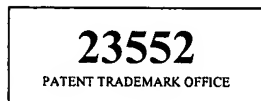
This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is not provided because it was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent applications, U.S. Serial No. 10/393,956 filed on March 20, 2003 and U.S. Serial No. 09/925,611, filed August 9, 2001, now U.S. Patent 6,547,306. A copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,547,306, which was not cited in either of the parent patent applications, is not submitted as this patent application is being filed after June 30, 2003 (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i)).

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Date:

April 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis R. Daley". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.


Dennis R. Daley  
Reg. No. 34,994  
DRD:PLSdb

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|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>FORM 1449*</b><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.</b><br><br><b>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | Docket Number:<br>8338.140USD2 | Application Number:<br>NEW FILING |
|  | Applicant: ESPINOSE ET AL.     |                                   |
|  | Filing Date: HEREWITH          | Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN           |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |            |                 |       |          |                            |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL      | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE       | NAME            | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|                       | 2,034,493    | 03/17/1936 | Sonnenberg      |       |          |                            |
|                       | 2,793,705    | 05/28/1957 | Garrity         |       |          |                            |
|                       | 3,015,517    | 01/02/1962 | Thornburgh      |       |          |                            |
|                       | 3,022,848    | 02/27/1962 | Heiser          |       |          |                            |
|                       | 3,815,700    | 06/11/1974 | Mittendorf      |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,052,099    | 10/04/1977 | Lowery et al.   |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,153,129    | 05/08/1979 | Redmond         |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,219,218    | 08/26/1980 | Waldon          |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,262,954    | 04/21/1981 | Thompson        |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,376,546    | 03/15/1983 | Guccione et al. |       |          |                            |
|                       | Des. 284,847 | 07/29/1986 | Smith           |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,621,860    | 11/11/1986 | Gerst           |       |          |                            |
|                       | Des. 300,918 | 05/02/1989 | Turner          |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,842,319    | 06/27/1989 | Ziegler         |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,883,139    | 11/28/1989 | Gross           |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,952,006    | 08/28/1990 | Willey          |       |          |                            |
|                       | 4,953,909    | 09/04/1990 | Crane           |       |          |                            |
|                       | 5,755,483    | 05/26/1998 | Lund            |       |          |                            |
|                       | 6,547,306    | 04/15/2003 | Espinose et al. |       |          |                            |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |            |         |       |          |             |    |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                          | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE       | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|                          |              |            |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|                          | 1,375,886    | 11/27/1974 | GB      |       |          |             |    |
|                          |              |            |         |       |          |             |    |
|                          |              |            |         |       |          |             |    |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |  |  |
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|---|-----------------|--|
| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED | <br><b>23552</b><br>PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant. |                 |  |
|   |                 |  |